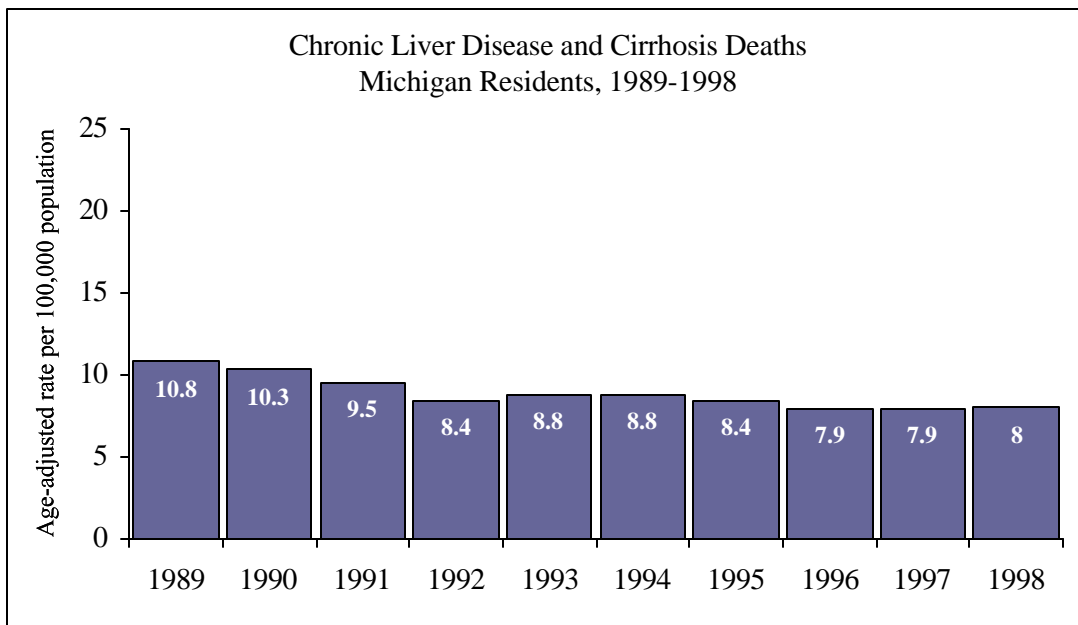


Vital Statistics Indicators

Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis Deaths



Source: Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, MDCH

How are we doing?

Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis is the ninth leading cause of all deaths in Michigan and the eighth leading cause of Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) for people below the age of 75.

The most common cause of liver disease is excessive consumption of alcohol. Alcohol-related disorders, which include alcoholic hepatitis and cirrhosis, outnumber all other types of liver disorder by at least five to one.

In 1998, there were 981 deaths due to chronic liver disease and cirrhosis in Michigan. The age-adjusted death rate was 8.0 per 100,000 population, establishing a downward trend in the rate of death since 1989.

How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

The chronic liver disease and cirrhosis death rate has historically been higher in Michigan than in the U.S., but the difference is narrowing. Michigan's 1997 age-adjusted rate of 7.9 was similar to the U.S. rate of 7.4. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis was the tenth leading cause of all deaths and the tenth leading cause of YPLL in the U.S.

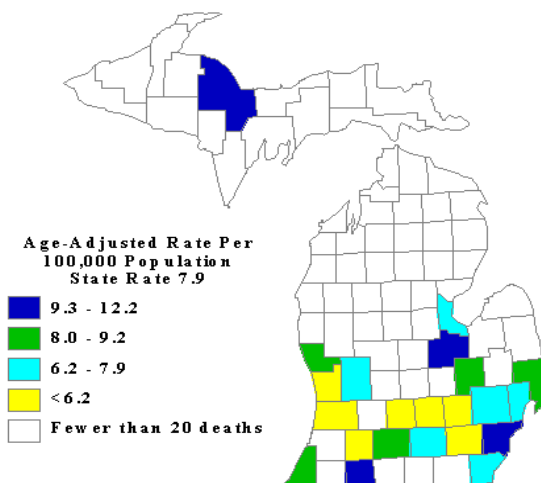
How are different populations affected?

Men are more than twice as likely to die of chronic liver disease and cirrhosis as women. The Michigan age-adjusted death rate was 11.5 for men and 4.7 for women.

Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis death rates for African-Americans are 69 percent greater than for whites.

In 1998, the age-adjusted rate for African-Americans in Michigan was 12.3 compared to 7.3 for whites.

**Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis Death Rates
1996-1998 County Averages**



What other information is important to know?

Eliminating alcohol abuse could prevent an estimated 75 percent to 80 percent of cirrhosis cases. Apart from alcohol and virus induced liver disease, the liver may be affected by congenital defects, bacterial and parasitic infection, circulatory disturbances, poisoning, and autoimmune processes. Pregnant women infected with hepatitis B could transmit the virus to their babies. Newborn vaccinations will prevent infants from becoming carriers.

What is the Department of Community Health doing to affect this indicator?

The department is actively working to reduce the prevalence and impact of chronic liver disease and cirrhosis. The department provides testing for diagnosis of viral hepatitis (hepatitis B and hepatitis C), which are major contributors to liver disease. Hepatitis B vaccinations are also provided through many local health departments with vaccine purchased by the department.

The department supports programming that focuses on changing community norms around alcohol use and reducing underage drinking. The Michigan Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking is a coalition of prevention partners that focuses on underage drinking issues through grant awards and support of local groups. A new advertising campaign is aimed at educating college students on the dangers of binge drinking. A mentoring program emphasizes an alcohol and drug-free approach to campus life. Work site coordination focuses on substance abuse and traffic safety issues targeting 18-21 year-old workers.

Last updated: February 2000.